

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
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R 161702Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937  
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN QUITO 2444

JOINT MESSAGE EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, MASS, EC  
SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN AIR DEFENSE

1. MILITARY ATTACHE AND AIR ATTACHE HAVE PERFORMED A CURSORY ANALYSIS OF THE ECUADOREAN AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THEIR ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MERIT CONSIDERATION. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THEIR ANALYSIS.

2. QUOTE: PRESENT ECUADOREAN EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF TWO BATTALIONS OF 40MM CANNON (TOWED). THEY HAVE TWO COMPANIES OF QUAD CAL 50 MG. THIS WILL PUT THEM AT ABOUT 24 40MM GUNS AND 24 QUAD 50, ALL TOWED. BASED ON DATT INSPECTION IN FEB 77 OF BATTALION "ATHUALPA" AT SALINAS, THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT BARRELS AND AMMO ON HAND FOR A 5-7 DAY SUSTAINED PERIOD. THE 50 CAL NEED TRAVERSING MOTORS BUT THEY ARE REPAIRABLE HERE. THE 40MM CARRIAGES NEED TIRES. AMMO IS SUFFICIENT TO TRAIN. THE COSTS WOULD BE MINIMAL AND ARE WITHIN THEIR SKILL AND RESOURCES. THERE ARE 12 20MM BREDAS GUNS AND 12 37MM US GUNS BUT THESE CAN BE DISCOUNTED DUE TO LACK OF PARTS AND AMMUNITION. SO, IN SUMMARY, THE ECUADOREAN ARMY COULD FIELD 2  
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BATTALIONS OF ADA FOR DEFENSE OF POINT TARGETS OR ONE LARGE AREA TARGET AGAINST OTHER THAN HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT.

3. THE TARGET SYSTEM OF ECUADOR CONSISTS OF:

(1) TAURA AIR BASE - MAIN FIGHTER AIR BASE OF FAE

(2) OIL FIELD COMPLEX IN EASTERN ORIENTE

(3) GENERAL RESERVE BRIGADE AT RIOBAMBA. DEFENSE WOULD  
ENTAIL COHERENT DEFENSE IN GARRISON.

(4) OIL TERMINAL ESMERALDAS

ALL OF THESE TARGETS ARE POINT TARGETS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE OIL FIELD COMPLEX. THE GALAPAGOS BRIGADE OFFERS SEVERAL PROBLEMS WHEN DEPLOYED AS IT NEEDS A MOBILE SYSTEM. AN AIR ATTACK ON THESE INSTALLATIONS BY HIGH PERFORMANCE ACFT WOULD BE A LOW ALTITUDE ATTACK WITH BOMB RELEASE FROM 2000-4000 FEET. THE EXCEPTION IS THE OIL FIELD COMPLEX AND ESMERALDAS TERMINAL THAT IN OUR OPINION WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO MINIMUM DAMAGE BY HIGH PERFORMANCE AIR. THE THREAT AGAINST THIS AREA TARGET HELOBORNE OR AIRBORNE FORCES AT LOW ALTITUDE.

4. THE PERUVIAN THREAT EVEN WITH 36 SU-22 IS ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 20-25 SORTIES PER DAY FOR NO MORE THAN 4 DAYS. AGAINST THIS FAE COULD MOUNT 12 SORTIES IN GROUND SUPPORT FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THEY HAVE NO AIRCRAFT WITH INTERCEPT CAPABILITY. ASSUMING THE PERUVIANS WOULD NOT DESTROY THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, THE OIL FIELDS AND THE ESMERALDAS TERMINALS, THIS LEAVES TWO POINT TARGETS TO DEFEND AGAINST HIGH PERFORMANCE AIR AT LOW AND MEDIUM ALTITUDE. AS ECUADOREAN EQUIPMENT IS NOT MOBILE, THE 2 BATTALIONS OF ADA COULD PROVIDE VERY MARGINAL DEFENSE OF THE TAURA AIR BASE AGAINST HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT. THIS IS DUE TO THE RANGE OF THE 40MM GUNS AND LACK OF RADAR CONTROL. A MOBILE SYSTEM IS STILL NEEDED FOR THE GENERAL RESERVE BRIGADE. THIS SOMEWHAT PITHY DISSERTATION LEADS  
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US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE I HAWK WOULD CERTAINLY WORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF TAURA BUT AT TREMENDOUS COST, POSSIBLY MORE THAN 1 BILLION. THE VULCAN CHAPPARAL IN CONTRAST IS A MOBILE SYSTEM ON TRACKED VEHICLES (OR TOWED) THAT IS USED FOR POINT TARGET AND AREA TARGET COVERAGE OF A US DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS 50 KMS WIDE AND 60 KMS DEEP AGAINST LOW AND MEDIUM ALTITUDE ATTACK. IT WOULD BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE AT CONSIDERABLY LESS COST, 20 MILLION FOR TWO BATTALIONS.

5. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE IS THE M42 40MM DUSTER. THOUGH DUSTERS NOT IN LARGE SUPPLY, IT WILL PROVIDE A GOOD AIR DEFENSE AGAINST LOW FLYING TARGETS. WHEN COMBINED WITH THE CHAPPARAL MISSILE SYSTEM OF LONGER RANGE AND MEDIUM ALTITUDE, IT WOULD PROVIDE A COMMON SYSTEM WITH THE PRESENT 40MM EQUIPMENT AND GOOD CAPABILITY. ALL OF THIS TIES IN WITH AN AIR CONTROL SYSTEM TO WARN, IDENTIFY, ALLOCATE, AND ENGAGE ENEMY TARGETS. THIS SAME SYSTEM HAS A GREAT DEAL OF CIVIL AVIATION UTILITY.

6. IN CONCLUSION, THEY NEED (1) A MOBILE SYSTEM FOR THIER RESERVE BRIGADE, (2) A STATIONARY SYSTEM FOR TAURA, AND (3) A SEMI-MOBILE CANNON SYSTEM TO DEFEND OIL FIELD AGAINST PARATROOP ATTACK. THE I HAWK WOULD BE AN ECONOMIC OVERKILL IN OUR OPINION. IF THEY USED THEIR PRESENT EQUIPMENT TO DEFEND THE OIL AREAS AND ESMERALDAS, THE CHAPPARAL VULCAN OR THE CHAPPARAL DUSTER WOULD PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DEFENSE AGAINST THE THREAT WITH WHICH THEY ARE FACED.

7. THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN LIMITED IN SCOPE OF NECESSITY AND AN ARMY - AIR FORCE SURVEY TEAM COULD SURVEY THE SITUATION IN CONSIDERABLE DEPTH AND BREATH, WORKING FROM OUR INITIAL EFFORT. SOME TREPIDATION IS NOTED THAT SUCH A TEAM MIGHT RECOMMEND THE I HAWK. OUR CURSORY ANALYSIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS OPTION WOULD NOT BE COST EFFECTOVE FOR ECUADOR. WE RECOMMEND USG USE ITS INFLUENCE TO:

(1) ENCOURAGE ECUADOR TOWARD AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM THAT  
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WILL HAVE GREAT CIVILIAN UTILITY AND PROVIDE COMMAND AND CONTROL.

(2) ENCOURAGE THEM TOWARD A SIMPLE CHEAPER AIR GROUND SYSTEM  
SUCH AS VULCAN CHAPPARAL.

(3) OFFER THE F-5 ON SHORT LEAD TIMES TO FILL THEIR INTERCEPTOR  
GAP.

(4) OFFER AN ARMY-AIR FORCE AIR DEFENSE SURVEY TEAM TO ASSESS  
MORE THOROUGHLY THE ECUADOREAN AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE  
SOLUTIONS. I HAWK, IN OUR OPINION, WOULD FALL OUT OF THIS SURVEY  
ON COST ALONE. END QUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

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